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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Mr. Anthony McMurtray, Chief
Inspection and Communications Branch
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. McMurtray:

This responds to your September 30, 2005, request to review the draft proposed rule updates to 10 C.F.R. Parts 50 and 52, specifically with regards to changes affecting the review of emergency planning associated with new reactor licensing. In communicating with your staff through the joint Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) New Reactor Licensing workgroup, we have been privy to the more recent updates to both 10 C.F.R. 50 and 52, as well as the updates to the one page summary describing the substantive changes affecting emergency planning.

We have reviewed the proposed rule changes and have found that they duly reflect and incorporate the lessons learned and products advanced by the joint NRC/DHS New Reactor Licensing workgroup over the last few years and have no further substantive comments to propose at this time. As previously discussed between our respective staff members, we would only offer that, where applicable, the acronym 'FEMA' be replaced with 'DHS', reflecting our new organization under DHS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important proposed rule changes.

Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 605-1535.

Sincerely,

Vanessa E. Quinn

Chief

Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch